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February 21, 2002

BOX PCT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PCT/EP00/08020
-filed August 17, 2000

Re: Application of Heinz FOCKE, Henry BUSE
METHOD FOR PRODUCING (CIGARETTE) PACKETS
Assignee: FOCKE & CO. (GmbH & Co.)
Our Ref: Q68394

Dear Sir:

The following documents and fees are submitted herewith in connection with the above application for the purpose of entering the National stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and in accordance with Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty:

- an executed Declaration and Power of Attorney.
- an English translation of the International Application.
- 3 sheet(s) of drawings (Figs. 1-5).
- an English translation of Article 19 claim amendments.
- an English translation of Article 34 amendments (annexes to the IPER).
- an executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form.
- an IDS w/German Search Report, English translation of German Search Report, Form PTO-1449 and a complete copy of each reference.
- a Preliminary Amendment

It is assumed that copies of the International Application, the International Search Report, and the International Preliminary Examination Report, will be supplied directly by the International Bureau, but if further copies are needed, the undersigned can easily provide them upon request.



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SUGHRU MION, PLLC

Commissioner for Patents
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February 21, 2002

Please see the attached PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT before calculating the filing fee.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	5	-	20	=	x \$18.00	=	\$0.00
Independent claims	1	-	3	=	x \$84.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee							\$890.00

TOTAL FILING FEE	<u>\$890.00</u>
Recordation of Assignment	<u>\$ 40.00</u>
TOTAL FEE	<u>\$930.00</u>

Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$890.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.492 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
Germany	199 40 138.1	August 24, 1999

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Mion, Jr. 21,092
for John H. Mion
Registration No. 18,879

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February 21, 2002

PATENT APPLICATION
Q-68394

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Heinz FOCKE et al

PCT/EP00/08020

Filed August 17, 2000

Appln. No. (NOT YET KNOWN)

Confirmation No. (NOT YET KNOWN)

Filed: February 21, 2002

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING (CIGARETTE) PACKETS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified Application, please make the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the regions of glue arranged on one side of the material web are offset in the transverse direction in relation to the regions of glue arranged on the other side of the material web, that is to say they are positioned in mutually offset lines or planes.

4. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the non-folded material web, provided with regions of glue on both sides, is drawn off from a reel, and then folded continuously in the longitudinal direction, in particular with a Z-fold (23) and/or a double-layered base strip (29) being formed in the process, the transverse folding of the material web

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PCT/EP00/08020, FILED August 17, 2000

resulting in offset regions of glue which are assigned to one another being positioned relative to one another such that, when folded, the subsequently severed blanks have regions of glue for folding tabs overlapping.

5. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** separate blanks, in particular a revenue stamp (42), are connected to the pack by corresponding regions of glue, in particular by regions of glue arranged in the region of the front wall (10), rear wall (11) and end wall (16), on the one hand, and corresponding regions of glue on the inside of the revenue stamp (42), on the other hand.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PCT/EP00/08020, FILED August 17, 2000

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to eliminate all multiple dependent claims (both proper and improper), thereby ensuring examination of all of claims 1-5 on the merits in the first Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

for John H. Mion - # 21,092
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Registration No. 18,879

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February 21, 2002

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1-~~or 2~~, **characterized in that** the regions of glue arranged on one side of the material web are offset in the transverse direction in relation to the regions of glue arranged on the other side of the material web, that is to say they are positioned in mutually offset lines or planes.

4. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1-~~or one of the further claims~~, **characterized in that** the non-folded material web, provided with regions of glue on both sides, is drawn off from a reel, and then folded continuously in the longitudinal direction, in particular with a Z-fold (23) and/or a double-layered base strip (29) being formed in the process, the transverse folding of the material web resulting in offset regions of glue which are assigned to one another being positioned relative to one another such that, when folded, the subsequently severed blanks have regions of glue for folding tabs overlapping.

5. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1-~~or one of the further claims~~, **characterized in that** separate blanks, in particular a revenue stamp (42), are connected to the pack by corresponding regions of glue, in particular by regions of glue arranged in the region of the front wall (10), rear wall (11) and end wall (16), on the one hand, and corresponding regions of glue on the inside of the revenue stamp (42), on the other hand.

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METHOD FOR PRODUCING (CIGARETTE) PACKS

Description:

The invention relates to a process for producing (cigarette) packs from blanks which are severed from a continuous material web made of thin packaging material, such as paper, and folded, folding tabs being connected to one another by adhesive bonding.

The adhesive bonding of folding tabs or other parts of the blanks is particularly problematic, in particular, in high-performing packaging machines. If the necessary glue is applied to the blanks in the region of the packaging machine, there is a risk of machine subassemblies becoming contaminated. It has already been proposed for packaging material to be coated with glue of the hot-melt type outside the packaging machine and for the corresponding regions of glue to be activated by the supply of heat once the pack has been completed. Hotmelt adhesive, however, has other disadvantages.

The object of the invention is to propose measures for the gluing of blanks for (cigarette) packs, in particular made of paper, which make it possible for the disadvantages outlined to be avoided and for gluing to take place outside the packaging machine.

In order to achieve this object, the process according to the invention for producing the packs is characterized by the following features:

- a) the material web for the blanks is provided on both sides, in accordance with the folding tabs which are to be connected to one another, with regions of glue, that is to say areas of glue or spots of glue,
- b) the regions of glue consist of a (cold) glue which (only) in conjunction with a mating area of glue produces the adhesion necessary for connecting the folding tabs or the like,
- c) the regions of glue are positioned such that, in the wound state of the material web, regions of glue on one side of the material web do not overlap with regions of glue on the other side.

25 The process according to the invention and the configuration of the blanks for producing, in particular, soft cigarette packs are based on the use of a new type of (cold) glue which is known, in principle, in glue technology and, on account of its technical properties, produces

the full adhesive action when two corresponding regions of glue, that is to say areas of glue or spots of glue, butt against one another. Without a mating region of glue, an area of glue applied to a blank cannot develop the adhesive action which results in the connection of folding tabs or the like. It is thus possible for material webs provided with regions of glue made of this glue to be wound without the wound layers adhering to one another, the invention avoiding, by virtue of the positioning of regions of glue, the situation where, in the wound web, regions of glue overlap and/or come into abutment against one another. The material web drawn off from the reel is then folded such that the mutually assigned regions of glue or areas of glue either overlap directly or are positioned such that, when a blank produced by the material web is folded, the corresponding regions of glue overlap one another. The corresponding folding may also be carried out, if appropriate, once the blank has been severed from the material web.

10 The process according to the invention can be used particularly advantageously for soft (cigarette) packs corresponding to US 5 762 186. In the case of the type of pack described in said document, it is necessary to connect to one another material strips in the longitudinal direction of the material web and, furthermore, double-layered folding tabs.

15 The technology according to the invention can also be used when separate blanks are to be connected to one another or to a pack, in particular for the connection of revenue stamps to (soft) packs.

20 Further details of the invention are explained more specifically below with reference to (cigarette) packs illustrated in the drawings and to blanks and/or parts of material webs. In the figures:

- Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a soft (cigarette) pack,
- Figure 2 shows a bottom view of the pack according to Figure 1, that is to say with a view of a base wall,
- Figure 3 shows a spread-out blank for producing a pack according to Figures 1 and 2,
- Figure 4 shows a separate blank which is to be connected to the pack, that is to say a revenue stamp, and
- Figure 5 shows the blank according to Figure 3 in an intermediate folding position.

25 30 The drawings illustrate, as the preferred use example, the configuration of a soft pack for cigarettes which is described and illustrated in detail in US 5 762 186. The pack according to

Figures 1 and 2 comprises a blank made of paper or similar packaging material (Figures 3 and 5).

The cuboidal pack forms a front wall 10, an opposite, rear wall 11 and narrow, upright side walls 12 and 13. The side wall 13 is positioned within the blank (Figure 3) between the front 5 wall 10 and rear wall 11. The side wall 12 comprises two strip-like wall tabs 14, 15 which overlap one another and are connected to one another by adhesive bonding.

An end wall 16 and a base wall 17 each comprise a plurality of folding tabs which partially overlap one another, to be precise in this case in accordance with the principle of envelope folding. The end wall 16 comprises two trapezoidal longitudinal tabs 18, 19 which 10 respectively adjoin the front wall 10 and rear wall 11. Said longitudinal tabs overlap sub-regions of side tabs 20, 21 connected to the side walls 12, 13. Said side tabs, in turn, are connected to the associated longitudinal tabs 18, 19 via triangular gussets 22 (Figure 5).

In this pack example, the base wall 17 is designed analogously to the end wall 16, with the result that the folding tabs of the base wall 17 are correspondingly provided with the same 15 designations.

Adjacent to the end wall 16, that is to say directly beneath the same, the pack or the blank is provided with a double fold running all the way round, to be precise with a Z-fold 23. Said fold comprises two mutually overlapping folding strips 24, 25 of the original blank (Figure 3). Said folding strips are separated off from one another by parallel folding lines 26, 27, 28. The 20 Z-fold 23 is formed, in the region of the blank, such that the originally bottom folding line 28 forms a top, outer folding border of the Z-fold 23, while the central folding line 27, concealed, forms the bottom boundary of the Z-fold 23. The folding line 26 is the transition from the upright pack walls into the end wall 16.

Furthermore, the region of the base wall 17 is designed in a specific manner. The blank forms 25 a double-layered base strip 29 here. For this purpose, the blank is also provided in the base region with three parallel folding lines 30, 31, 32 which belong to the base strip 29. The blank or the material web is folded over along the central folding line 31 to produce the double-layered base strip 29. The latter is wider than the corresponding dimensions of the base-side folding tabs, with the result that a double-layered reinforcing strip 33 extends in the region of 30 the upright pack walls. The entire surface area of the folding tabs 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, which form the base wall 17, is formed from two layers of the blank.

In order to form a pack from a blank designed in the manner described (Figure 5), a plurality of glue connections are required. These are provided by rectangular, square or more or less trapezoidal areas of glue. For the latter, use is made of a specific glue which produces the necessary adhesive action when correspondingly positioned areas of glue of blank parts which
5 are to be connected abut one another. Said glue is a specific cold glue, whereby the mutually assigned glue areas furnish the adhesive bond by abutting or pressing against one another. The corresponding glue areas may have different matching components.

In order to avoid with all certainty that an adhesive bond is made with the material web, in particular a paper web in the region of the glue areas, the latter is expediently provided with a
10 glue-resistant coating on its top surface. In addition-or as an alternative-the glue areas can be provided with an external coat which deliberately excludes any adhesive bonding with the material web.

With the present configuration of the pack, a non-folded material web, for forming blanks according to Figure 3, is provided in the correct positions with the areas of glue illustrated. In this case, the blanks are connected to one another within the material web (not shown) via the wall tabs 14, 15. The material web designed in this way is wound into a reel. The material web is drawn off from the latter and then folded, with the Z-fold 23 or the double-layered base strip 29 being formed in the process. Thereafter, the blanks according to Figure 5 are severed from the material web.

20 In the original state, that is to say in the planar state according to Figure 3, the material web is provided with regions of glue which have the technical properties described.

(Small) areas of glue 34 and 35 are provided for the purpose of connecting the two legs of the Z-fold 23, that is to say the two folding strips 24, 25. Said two regions of glue are located on the same side of the material web or of the blank, that is to say on the (printed) front side. The
25 different markings (hatching and crosshatching) show that the two areas of glue 34, 35 are connected to one another, that is to say overlap one another once the folding strips 24, 25 have been folded (Figure 5) . For this purpose, the area of glue 34 is positioned adjacent to the folding line 26 and the area of glue 35 is positioned adjacent to the folding line 28.

For the purpose of connecting the wall tabs 14, 15 to one another, areas of glue 36, 37 are
30 provided in the top region adjacent to the end wall 16 and areas of glue 38, 39 are provided at the bottom adjacent to the base wall 17, in each case in relation to the blank according to Figure 5 which has been prepared for forming the packs. The mutually assigned (rectangular)

areas of glue 36, 37 are positioned on different sides of the blank, that is to say on the (non-printed) inside in the region of the wall tab 14 and on the outside of the wall tab 15. By virtue of the Z-fold 23, the areas of glue 36, 37 in the original position (Figure 3) are offset in relation to one another in the longitudinal direction of the blank or of the material web. The 5 area of glue 36 is located in the region of the folding strip 24. The area of glue 37 is arranged beneath the Z-fold 23 and/or beneath the folding line 28. By virtue of the Z-fold 23, the two areas of glue 36, 37 move to the same level or into the same (imaginary) transverse plane (Figure 5). The dashed circumference line and hatching of the area of glue 36 shows that the latter is positioned on the non-visible inside of the blank. When the wall tabs 14, 15 overlap, the areas of glue 36, 37 are located congruently one upon the other.

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Similarly, the areas of glue 38, 39 in the original state, that is to say in the region of the non-folded blank according to Figure 3 or a corresponding material web, are positioned in offset lines or planes of the material webs. The area of glue 38, which is assigned to the (outer) wall tab 14, is arranged on the outermost border of the blank in the region of the reinforcing strip 33. The other area of glue 39 is located in the region of the wall tab 15 above the folding line 30. The two areas of glue 38, 39 are originally positioned (Figure 3) on the same side of the blank or of the material web. By virtue of the outlined folding for the purpose of forming the base strip 29, the areas of glue 38, 39 move into a mutually aligned position (Figure 5), to be precise on the relevant sides for the gluing.

20 For the purpose of connecting the (double-layers) longitudinal tabs 18, 19 of the base wall 17 to one another, more or less trapezoid-contoured strips of glue 40, 41 are provided, as regions of glue, in the region of the reinforcing strip 33. The two strips of glue 40, 41 are located on different sides of the (central) folding line 31 of the reinforcing strip 33, to be precise directly adjacent to said folding line 31. The strips of glue 40, 41 are originally arranged on the same 25 side of the blank or material web (Figure 3), that is to say on the front side. Once the reinforcing strip 33 has been folded along the folding line 31, the two strips of glue 40, 41 are moved into the same (imaginary) transverse plane of the blank (Figure 5). The reinforcing strip 33 is folded such that insides of the two layers butt against one another. This means that, once the base strip 29 has been produced, the strip of glue 40 and the strip of glue 41 are 30 located on different sides. The two strips of glue 40, 41 are then located in a position in which, when the longitudinal tabs 18, 19 are folded for the purpose of forming the base wall 17, the strips of glue 40, 41 overlap one another (Figure 2).

Accordingly, a special feature is that, in the region of the wound, original material web, the mutually corresponding regions of glue are located in different planes or lines (as seen in the longitudinal direction of the material web). By virtue of the material web being folded once it has been drawn off from the reel, the areas of glue move into the correct position for the 5 production of the pack, taking account of the outside and inside of the blanks. The individual blanks are severed from the material web folded in this way. The configuration and arrangement of the regions of glue described may also be used for fixing separate blanks. The example given in the drawings is the fastening of a conventional revenue stamp 42. This is a rectangular, strip-like blank, usually made of paper, which is positioned transversely over the 10 end wall 16 of the pack, legs 43 being fastened on the front wall 10 and rear wall 11.

The special feature is that the revenue stamp is provided on the rear side - the side directed 15 towards the pack - with regions of glue which correspond with appropriately arranged regions of glue on the pack or on the blank, with the result that the revenue stamp 42 is fastened on the pack with the aid of regions of glue which overlap one another. In the present case, the revenue stamp is provided with four regions of glue or areas of glue 44, 45, 46, 47. These correspond to appropriately formed and arranged areas of glue 48, 49, 50, 51 on the blank or on the pack. In the region of the pack or of the blank, in each case one area of glue 48, 49 is provided in the region of the front wall 10, on the one hand, and rear wall 11, on the other hand, to be precise beneath the folding line 28, which forms a top border of the finished pack.

20 The other areas of glue 50, 51 are located in the region of the longitudinal tabs 18, 19 of the end wall 16. This makes it possible for the revenue stamp 42 to be fastened such that said revenue stamp is fastened by means of two regions of glue in the region of the end wall 16, that is to say by means of the areas of glue 45, 46 of the revenue stamp 42 and the areas of glue 50, 51 of the longitudinal tabs 18, 19. In the region of the front wall 10 and rear wall 11, 25 the areas of glue 44 and 47 of the revenue stamp are connected to the areas of glue 48 and 49.

List of designations

10	Front wall	47	Area of glue
11	Rear wall	48	Area of glue
12	Side wall	49	Area of glue
13	Side wall	50	Area of glue
14	Wall tab	51	Area of glue
15	Wall tab		
16	End wall		
17	Base wall		
18	Longitudinal tab		
19	Longitudinal tab		
20	Side tab		
21	Side tab		
22	Gusset		
23	Z-fold		
24	Folding strip		
25	Folding strip		
26	Folding line		
27	Folding line		
28	Folding line		
29	Base strip		
30	Folding line		
31	Folding line		
32	Folding line		
33	Reinforcing strip		
34	Area of glue		
35	Area of glue		
36	Area of glue		
37	Area of glue		
38	Area of glue		
39	Area of glue		
40	Strip of glue		
41	Strip of glue		
42	Revenue stamp		
43	Leg		
44	Area of glue		
45	Area of glue		
46	Area of glue		

Patent claims

1. Process for producing (cigarette) packs from blanks which are severed from a continuous material web made of thin packaging material, such as paper, and folded, folding tabs being connected to one another by adhesive bonding, **characterized by** the following

5 features:

- a) the material web is provided on both sides, in accordance with the folding tabs which are to be connected to one another, with regions of glue, that is to say they are provided with areas of glue (34..39; 48..51) or with spots of glue,
- b) the regions of glue consist of a (cold) glue, which only in conjunction with a corresponding (mating) area of glue produces the adhesion necessary for connecting the folding tabs, but which does not adhere directly to the material web.
- c) the regions of glue are positioned such that, in the wound state of the material web, regions of glue on one side of the said material web do not overlap with regions of glue on the other side of the material web.

10 2. Process according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** at least the regions of glue and/or the material web are provided with a coating which reduces the adhesive action of the glue directly on the material web.

15 3. Process according to Claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the regions of glue arranged on one side of the material web are offset in the transverse direction in relation to the regions 20 of glue arranged on the other side of the material web, that is to say they are positioned in mutually offset lines or planes.

25 4. Process according to Claim 1 or one of the further claims, **characterized in that** the non-folded material web, provided with regions of glue on both sides, is drawn off from a reel, and then folded continuously in the longitudinal direction, in particular with a Z-fold (23) and/or a double-layered base strip (29) being formed in the process, the transverse folding of the material web resulting in offset regions of glue which are assigned to one another being positioned relative to one another such that, when folded, the subsequently severed blanks have regions of glue for folding tabs overlapping.

30 5. Process according to Claim 1 or one of the further claims, **characterized in that** separate blanks, in particular a revenue stamp (42), are connected to the pack by corresponding regions of glue, in particular by regions of glue arranged in the region of the

front wall (10) , rear wall (11) and end wall (16), on the one hand, and corresponding regions of glue on the inside of the revenue stamp (42), on the other hand.

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Abstract (in conjunction with Figure 3)

Process for producing (cigarette) packs from blanks which are drawn off from a continuous material web wound as a reel, regions of glue arranged on both sides of the material web serving for connecting folding tabs. The regions of glue are positioned in different lines of the material web such that, in the wound state, regions of glue on one side of the material web do not overlap with regions of glue on the other side.

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Fig. 2

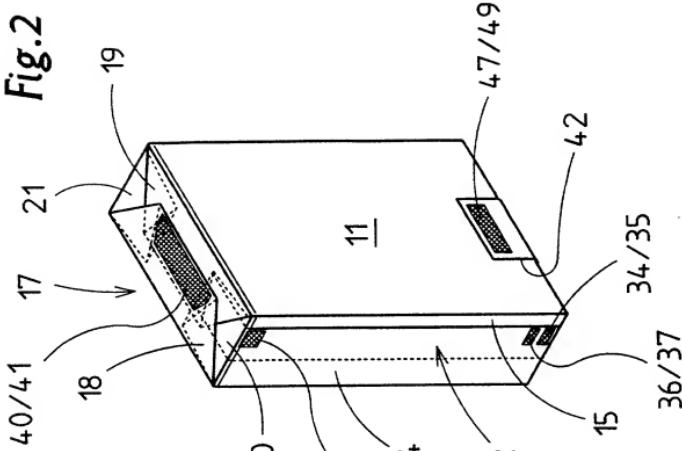


Fig. 1

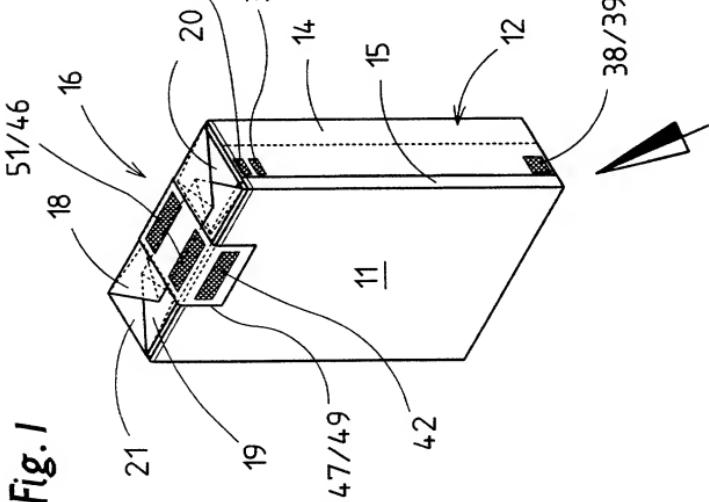


Fig.3

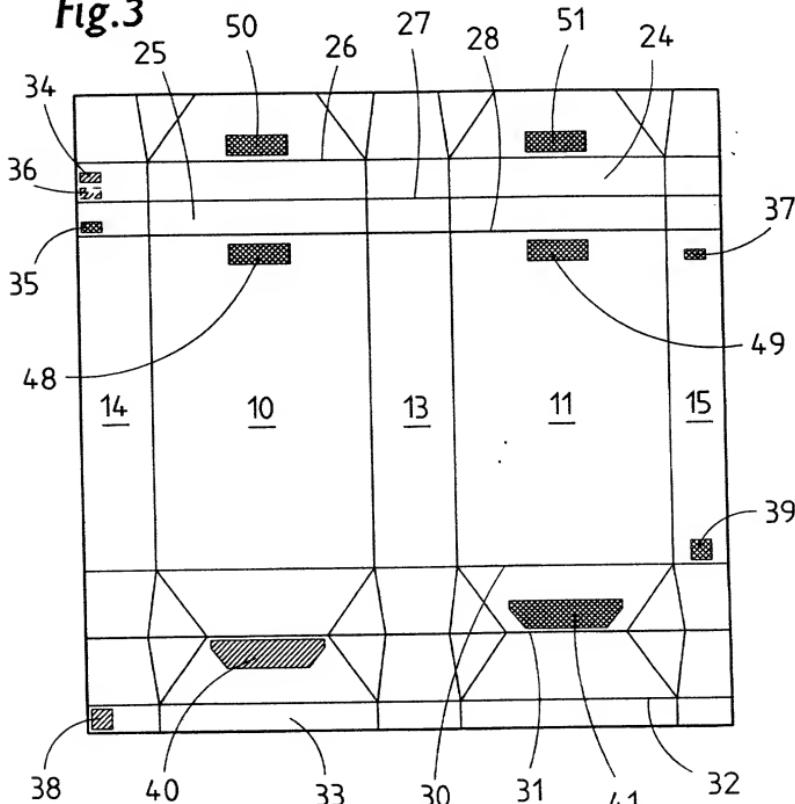


Fig.4

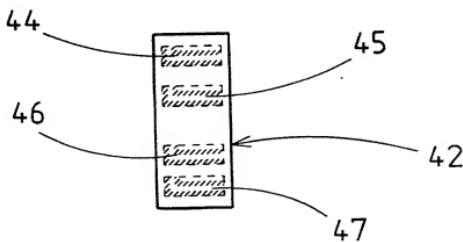
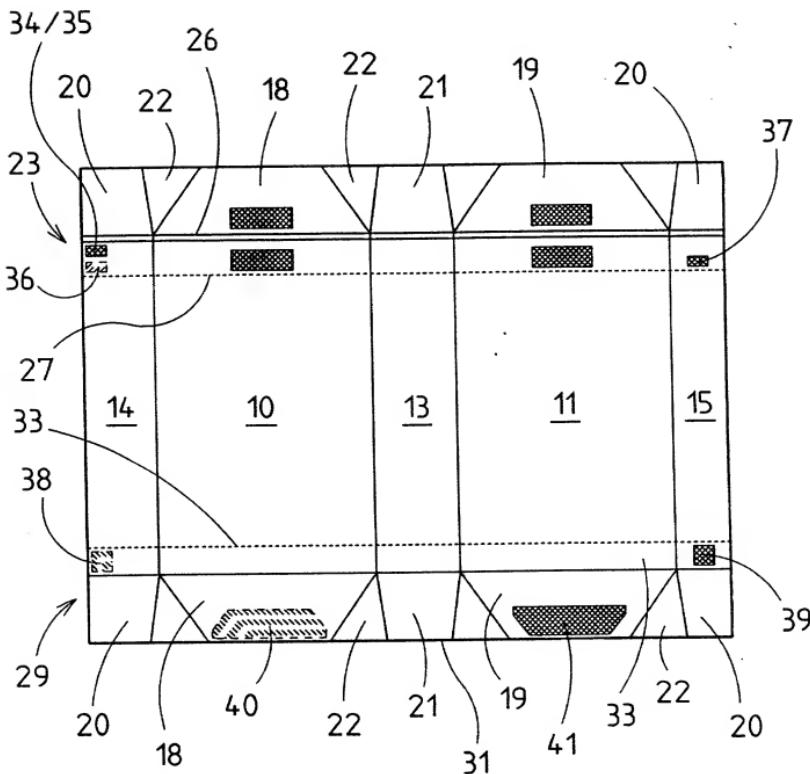


Fig.5



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name: that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled:

METHOD FOR PRODUCING (CIGARETTE) PACKETS

which application is:

the attached application
(for original application)

Application No. PCT/EP 00/08020
filed August 17, 2000, and amended on

(for declaration not accompanying application)

that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification of the above-identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the patentability of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, that I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119, §172 or §365 of any provisional application or foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified on said list any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of any foreign application on which priority is claimed:

Application Number	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
199 40 138.1	Germany	August 24, 1999	

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any information material to the patentability of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date	Status
18,879; Thomas J. Macpeak, Reg. No. 19,292; Robert J. Seas, Jr., Reg. No. 21,092; Darryl Mexic, Reg. No. 23,063; Robert V. Sloan, Reg. No. 22,775; Peter D. Olexy, Reg. No. 24,513; J. Frank Osha, Reg. No. 24,625; Louis Gubinsky, Reg. No. 24,835; Neil B. Siegel, Reg. No. 25,200; David J. Cushing, Reg. No. 28,703; John R. Inge, Reg. No. 26,916; Joseph J. Ruch, Jr., Reg. No. 26,577; Sheldon I. Landsman, Reg. No. 25,430; Richard C. Turner, Reg. No. 29,710; Howard L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 25,665; Alan J. Kasper, Reg. No. 25,426; Kenneth J. Burchfield, Reg. No. 31,333; Gordon Kit, Reg. No. 30,764; Susan J. Mack, Reg. No. 30,951; Frank L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 31,484; Mark Boland, Reg. No. 32,197; William H. Mandir, Reg. No. 32,156; Brian W. Hannon, Reg. No. 32,778; Abraham J. Rosner, Reg. No. 33,276; Bruce E. Kramer, Reg. No. 33,725; Paul F. Neils, Reg. No. 33,102; Brett S. Sylvester, Reg. No. 32,765; Robert M. Masters, Reg. No. 35,603; George F. Lehnik, Reg. No. 36,359; John T. Callahan, Reg. No. 32,607; Steven M. Gruskin, Reg. No. 36,818; Peter A. McKenna, Reg. No. 38,551 and Edward F. Kenehan, Reg. No. 28,962; my attorney's to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to <u>SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-3213.</u>		

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date October 19, 2001 First Inventor Heinz Folke
 First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Residence Verden DE Germany Signature Heinz Folke
 City State/Country

Post Office Address: Moorstraße 64, 27283 Verden/Germany

Citizenship German

